Vangrams in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

†5166. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of "Vangrams" in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, zone-wise; and the proposal for number of Vangrams to be converted into Revenue villages sent to Government by the State Government;

(b) the reasons mentioned by the State Government for converting Vangrams into Revenue villages;

(c) whether people living in the forests are going to be benefited by the same; and

(d) if so, the details of the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVTRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILEP SINGH JUDEV): (a) As per the information available, there are 425 forest villages in Chhattisgarh and 921 forest villages in Madhya Pradesh. The Chhattisgarh Government has submitted 19 proposals for conversion of 421 forest villages into revenue villages whereas the Madhya Pradesh Government has submitted 11 such proposals in respect of 316 forest villages.

(b) The State Governments have mentioned that forest villagers will get land ownership rights as well as all other rights enjoyed by revenue villagers and it will result in their social and economic improvement.

(c) Once the forest villages are converted into revenue villages, the developmental funds for Rural Development would start flowing in and would lead to economic upliftment of the people.

(d) The Central Government have issued detailed guidelines on 18.9.1990 for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Approval to Musi River Pollution Abatement Project

5167. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have accorded approval to the Musi River Pollution Abatement Project under the National River Conservation Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the project together with funding pattern;

(d) the implementing and monitoring agency of the project; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) by when work on the project is likely to be commenced and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MIN1STRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIDILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government has approved the project of pollution abatement of river Musi at Hyderabad at an estimated cost of about of Rs.344 crore. The proposal comprises construction of five sewage treatment plants, twelve sewage pumping stations, laying of about 40 Km long sewers and allied works.

(c) The cost of the project will be shared in the ratio of 70:30 between Government of India and the State Government.

(d) The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board is the implementing agency for the project. The project will be monitored by Government of India through the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the State Government through the Department of Municipal Administration and Urban Development.

(e) It will take 3 years from the date of commencement to complete the project.

Market Value of Detained Timber

5168. SHRI INDRAMONI BORA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details with regards to all the timber wagons detained by Ministry during 1999-2000;

(b) the quantity of legal and illegal timbers found in detained wagons and its pstimated market value at the time of detention, separately;

(c) total penalties imposed on all the wagons during proceedings by S.I.T. in details;

(d) the realisation of total sale value and penalties deposited from entire confiscated wagons;

(e) amount of direct/indirect expenses incurred on the physical verifications and auction sales of all the detained wagons; and

(f) reasons for auction sale of confiscated timber on "As is where is basis"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) On receipt of information about transport of illegal timber from North-Eastem Region in the garb of legal timber, 202 wagons loaded with timber were detained by the Ministry of Environment